

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying the current route of paths in a telecommunications MS-SPRINGS network, the MS-SPRING network comprising:
  - network elements or nodes, each node comprising a controller, the controller comprising controller status;
  - fiber optic spans interposed between the network elements to form a ring, each network element being connected to adjacent network elements through said fiber optic spans allowing a bidirectional communication therebetween;
  - at least one path connecting two or more network elements of the ring, the at least one path, in a network free-of-failure condition, following a corresponding at least one Path Nominal Route;
  - a network manager; and
  - a mechanism for protecting traffic travelling in the network, said protection mechanism being shared in the network and being operated by the network manager,the method comprising:
  - (a) providing the network manager with information relating to the Nominal Route of the at least one path; and
  - (b) providing the network manager with information of current status of the at least one network element, wherein it comprises the step of:
  - (c) processing, at the network manager, the information provided through steps (a) and (b) so as to calculate the current route of the at least one path, by:

- (c1) analyzing the Path Nominal Route of the at least one path;
- (c2) making a determination as to whether at least one of the Nominal Route spans comprises a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a span re-routing;
- (c3) when the determination in (c2) is in the affirmative, declaring that the current route coincides with the nominal route, with a main span being replaced by a spare span; and
- (c4) when the determination in (c2) is in the negative, checking for ring re-routing by determining whether at least one of the spans of the Nominal Route is bounded by a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a ring re-routing.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising identifying what paths are carried at a given span.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[4]] 1, further comprising declaring that the current route coincides with the Nominal Route when the check for ring re-routing is negative.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising:  
when the check for ring re-routing is affirmative, making a negated route ring determination as to whether any spans of the negated route comprise a ring node;

when the negated route ring determination is negative, declaring that the current route coincides with the Ring Spare Route; and  
when the negated route ring determination is affirmative, declaring that the current route coincides with the nominal route.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer-readable medium comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.